

1981: Arendal, NOR flap:

Mainly lights/Hessdalen-like pix made.
Embedded are 2 CEI's (below, & "cigar").

According to air traffic control at Fornebo airport, a 3 ton rocket, which was to have been launched from Egerdal (a place nearby) this night, never got airborne nor ever will be".

EXCEPTIONAL UFO-PICTURES FROM NORWAY

Date: Last three weeks of November 1981
Time: Nightly observations
Place: Arendal
Witnesses: Several
Nature of sighting: Various light forms together with cigar- and saucer-shaped objects
Investigator: Arne Thomassen

Around the little town of Arendal in southern Norway, there was a tremendous UFO "flap" during the last three weeks of November 1981. Strange aerial phenomena were observed night after night in several areas of the city, and five films of transparencies were taken with a telephoto lens, showing many bizarre light-forms.

A total of 78 pictures were made. Only 25 were good enough to reproduce, but they clearly show the light-forms of the UFOs and other strange phenomena in connection with them. Many of the pictures contain beautiful colours.

It all started when a young family saw several UFOs night after night in Strømmen at the west side of Arendal. On Sunday, 8 November, however, one of these objects came quite close.

About 3.45 pm this Sunday the husband, his wife, a brother and a niece were standing on the veranda looking towards southwest where the UFOs usually appeared, coming in from the ocean and moving northwards. At this particular moment all lights in the apartment were turned off.

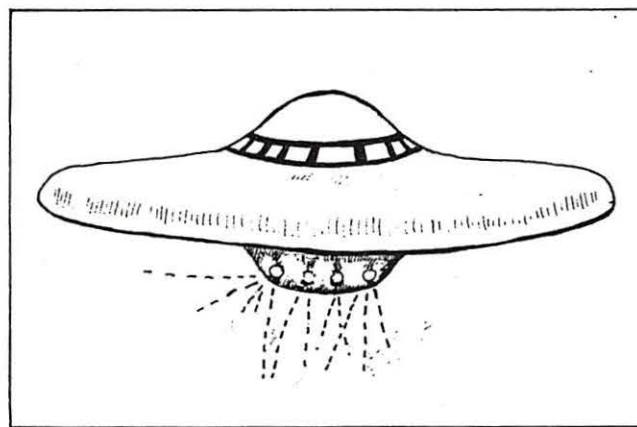
Venus stood low in southwest and the first UFO came up a little to the right of the planet. The object flew up, down and in every possible direction, performing some sort of irregular dance and flashing with a blueish quivering light. Sometimes the light flashed strongly, sometimes it was weak. The light varied from blue to green and yellow-red. The flashes of light were mostly weaker than those from an aeroplane, but sometimes, often after 6 or 7 small blinks, they were so bright that great parts of the clouds were lit up and even the ground below was illuminated by flashes which resembled those from a flashgun. After a little while the UFO went towards the south and disappeared.

A little later it came back from south east, and the first occurrence they noted was a very strong flash, much brighter than usual, and then it came right towards the veranda. The object passed them at a distance of 500-800 metres, as they guessed, and was then clearly visible: On top was a dome which seemed lit with a yellow-white light from inside. Below the dome was a row of squares which seemed to be 1.5 times as high as they were wide. They looked like windows since light shone out of them, but they could see nothing inside at this distance.

Below the row of squares was a circular or oval body, and below this again was a ring of lights (red, green and blue) which

seemed to be rotating. The sight was both beautiful and repulsive at the same time.

During the few seconds when the strange object was at its closest, they could see a cone of light emitted from the side tapering down and backwards in a curve. Naturally, the witnesses were quite alarmed.



A drawing of the object as the witnesses saw it.

At last they telephoned UFO-Norge representative Hans Aass who lives on the east side of Arendal. He immediately started to climb a hill behind his house to see if the UFO was visible from this point, 8 kilometres east of the observers. After a while he reached a suitable observing place and he could now see the UFO with his bare eyes, as well as through 7x50 binoculars. This evening there were several sightings and Mr. Aass could follow them from his observation site as small light points dancing in the sky, sending out violent bursts of light in different colours. It was his first UFO-sighting: Being very upset, he ran home to phone me, Arne Thomassen (leader of division South - UFO-Norge), and also some people living west of Arendal, to find out the position of the object which seemed to be a few kilometres west of the city.

On Monday night, the day after these incidents, Harald Færnes on his farm, at Vegårdshei northeast of Arendal, observed a saucer-shaped object at an estimated distance of about 300 metres. Together with his wife, he witnessed its flight, in which it emitted a powerful white light and travelled in jumping movements and sharp angles (90 degrees mostly).

Thursday, 12 November was a very special day. Four young men, at Blakstad north of Arendal, saw a UFO about 100 metres above a nearby hill. It moved soundlessly and at the lower part were four lights in a square; two big lights in the back and two small lights in the front of the object. The time was 11.30 pm.

The same evening Hans Aass, Alf Thomassen and I drove out to the young family in Strømmen with binoculars and a good camera, and there I shot my first 15 UFO pictures.

slam xig all-releasess/ethil ghinn
(Cigars, (old) 250 & 2nd Kestelbun

: 2-22-2014, 2nd Kestelbun (250)



When the film was developed a few days later, the UFOs were clearly visible with two small lights in front and two big ones in the backside. The pictures returned from development two days after the Blakstad-story had appeared in the newspaper. I had much work in my business at that time, and had little energy left for UFO-hunting under the bright autums stars, so I instructed the husband at Strømmen how to take good pictures and left the equipment in his care.

In the course of the following days he shot 63 UFO-pictures. All of them were time exposures (5-10 seconds) with a solid and firm tripod and triggered with a cord. No pictures were shot random, but aimed towards blinking lights dancing in the sky that was first seen with the bare eye. A third of the pictures were quite good, a third had a wrong aperture, and about a third showed no lights at all. The UFOs often moved swiftly out of the frame just as the photographer was squeezing the trigger.

Five films were shot:

The A film was shot by me in Strømmen, 12 November, at 7.30 - 8.00 pm
The B film was shot by my friend at Vik, 18 November, at 7 - 8.00 pm after a very exciting UFO-hunt with his car.
The C film was taken in Strømmen, 21 November by my friend
The D film was taken in Strømmen, 28 November by my friend
The E film was taken in Strømmen, 1 December also by my friend

Some of the pictures were really good, and contained a number of interesting details. The UFOs with their sharp flashlike blinks had flashed themselves onto the films so to speak. Clearly visible were also a number of seemingly cylindrical clouds surrounding some of the weaker blinks in blue, orange and green colours.

Camera data:

The camera was a Minolta XG-2 (SLR).
The lens was a Vivitar 400 mm f/5.6. (Most pictures were shot at this aperture).
The film was a Fujichrome 400 (slidefilm).
The tripod was a Slik Master Standard (with "rubbershoes").
Lens and accompanying UV-filter were multicoated to prevent reflection.
All pictures were taken outdoors and not through windows. The slides were later enlarged with a slide duplicator in order to enhance details.

In addition to these observations, there was also another, truly remarkable one, involving a huge cigar-shaped object with a big red light in both ends. It seems that this object may appear on at least some of the pictures. The report is as follows:

The observers, Mr. and Mrs. Bjørnsen and their daughter, live at a little farm 4 km northwest of Arendal, about one kilometer off the roads. On Thursday, 19 November at 6.20 pm, the man went outside the house to check the water supply. They had only moved in 4 days previously, and had heard about the many recent observations of blinking objects, so they looked up in the sky now and then. It was a calm and cold evening with bright starshine.

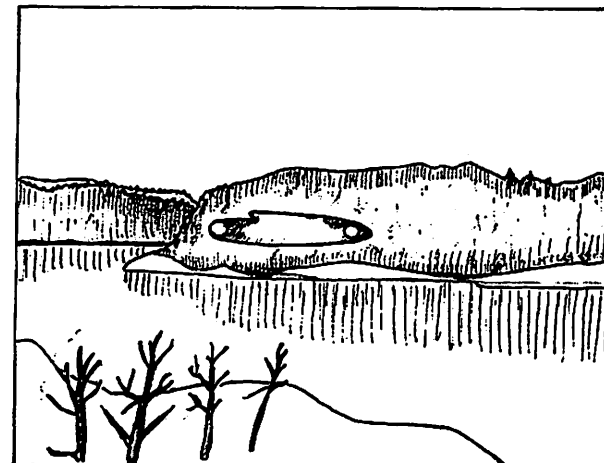
Suddenly he became aware of a light in the eastern sky blinking and pulsating fast and irregularly. The light moved up and down with a blue blinking, sometimes weak and sometimes very strong, and after a little while it disappeared towards the east. Now and then the blinks were so powerful that the ground around the house was lit up as if someone was using a big flashgun out in the woods, far

from roads and from any electric outdoor light. They also stated that it did not resemble the distinctive flashes of distant lightning as can be seen in the autumn.

The house is situated on a high spot surrounded by low hills and forests. In front of the house grassy fields run down towards lake Blågestad. To the northeast there are small islands and hills with low pinetrees.

The family now turned off all lights in the house and sat down behind the windows watching the sky. After an hour of patient waiting, the UFOs appeared again.

Suddenly a shivering yellow light appeared over the southern hills. The object rose and fell and the light shifted from yellow to blue. After a little while, it soared rapidly to an altitude of 45 degrees and at the same time another object came in from the northeast and stopped at the same altitude.



A drawing of the object over lake Blågestad

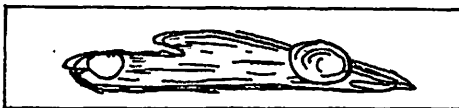
Then a huge greyish object came in from the south and passed within 50 metres of the house and glided silently towards the lake along the edge of the fields. Over the lake it descended slowly, so it was possible to observe it with the island and pinetrees as a background. The distance was then about 200-300 metres. At both ends they could see a very big red light, and on top of it they claimed there was something like a bridge. (See drawing by the witness.)

The light from the two red spots was very unfamiliar, and they had difficulties in describing it. (In the south-eastern part of the country this cigar-shaped phenomenon had been seen a few years ago, and then too the witnesses noticed the very odd red lights and reported that there seemed to be something rotating inside them.)

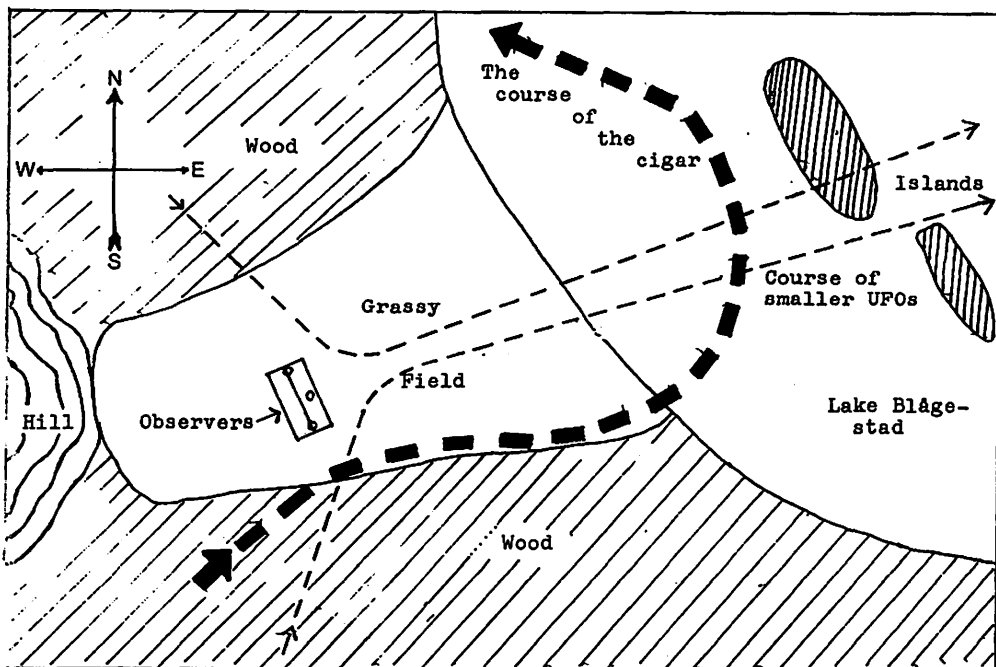
It was a great shock to the family to see this strange, huge UFO with its dark and silent body and clear red lights; they thought for a while that it was an invasion, and turned on the radio for the kind of short message that one would expect to get under such

circumstances.

Over the water the cigar changed course and headed slowly towards the northwest, and at the same time the two UFOs on each side of the house started to move; they flew side by side out over the lake and disappeared behind the islands in the northeast. This led to the conclusion that the three objects were in contact with each other, moving in a united formation. (See sketch).



Sketch made by Mr. Bjørnsen



Mr. Bjørnsen had not previously believed very much in what he had heard about UFOs, but apart from that, he had an open-minded attitude to the phenomenon in general. Mrs. Bjørnsen had been very sceptical, but now they both said that their lives would not be the same after this event.

The same evening at about 8 o'clock the huge cigar (or something very like it) glided towards the center of Arendal. A driver told me this at the same time as a friend of mine got the first telephone report from the family north of the city. The object seemed to be identical with that seen by the Bjørnsen family 40 minutes earlier. In order to rule out the possibility of reflections, the driver rolled down his window and then saw the object move over a factory. It was of the same length as the building and headed right towards the center of the city. The witness wanted to be anonymous, which one can understand under such circumstances.

In close connection with this last observation, there was also a lady located elsewhere in the city, who had seen the strange object coming towards her veranda. Just before reaching her, it seemed, the cigar disappeared in another direction. She doesn't believe in flying saucers, but it was impossible for her to figure out what this phenomenon could have been.

A short description of the pictures

First one has to consider the fact that none of the pictures actually show any clear-cut physical object. All that is seen (although remarkable and bizarre) are colourful light-forms jumping and flashing to and fro in the sky. Nevertheless, these pictures add new material to the UFO-evidence, and to interpret the meaning of this information could be very valuable to ufologists.

Because we are not able to reproduce the many beautiful colours here in this newsletter, I will only give a short description of some selected examples with accompanying black-and white drawings.

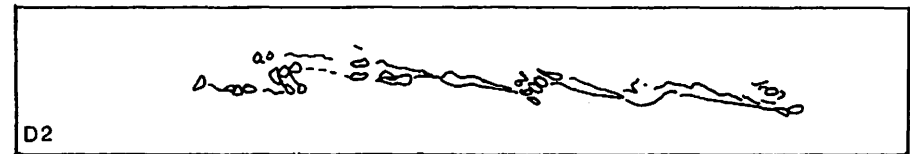
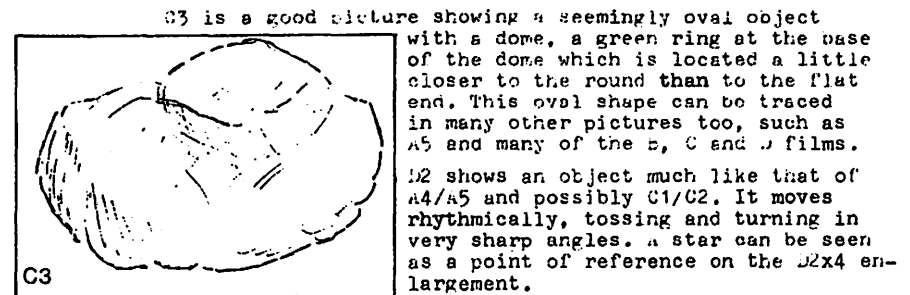
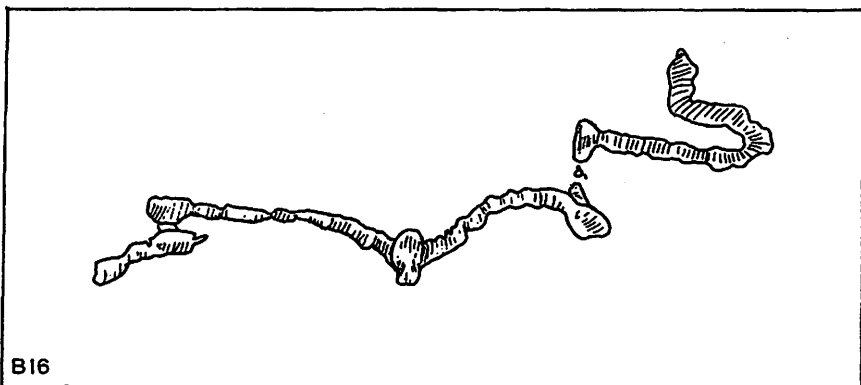
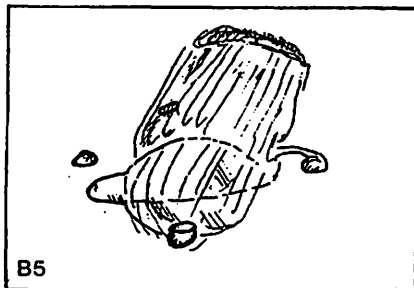
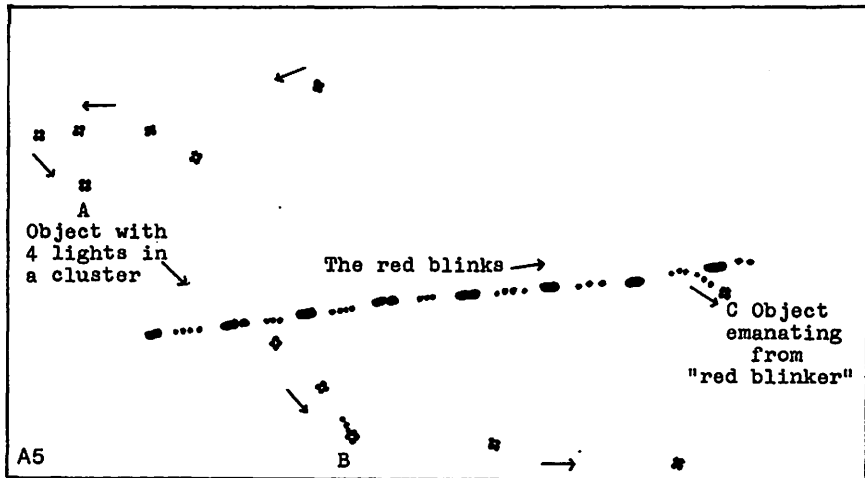
All the pictures are designated in the following way: A, B, C, D and E refer to films no. 1 to 5. Additionally, there is an extensive alphanumerical code to each copy. Example: A5x128b means picture no. 5 in the A series, enlarged 128 times, object no. 2 from the left (b) on the original slide.

A4 and A5 were the first pictures which were shot and they show a lot of interesting details. A bright red light came blinking and pulsating in from the south and moved northwards. The object went slowly and without a sound, tossing slightly. It had an irregular blinking, not like any aeroplane, and on its lower side there was a shivering red light. Maybe this object was the same as the cigar seen by several people 7 days later. In addition there are also two other objects. (See drawing).

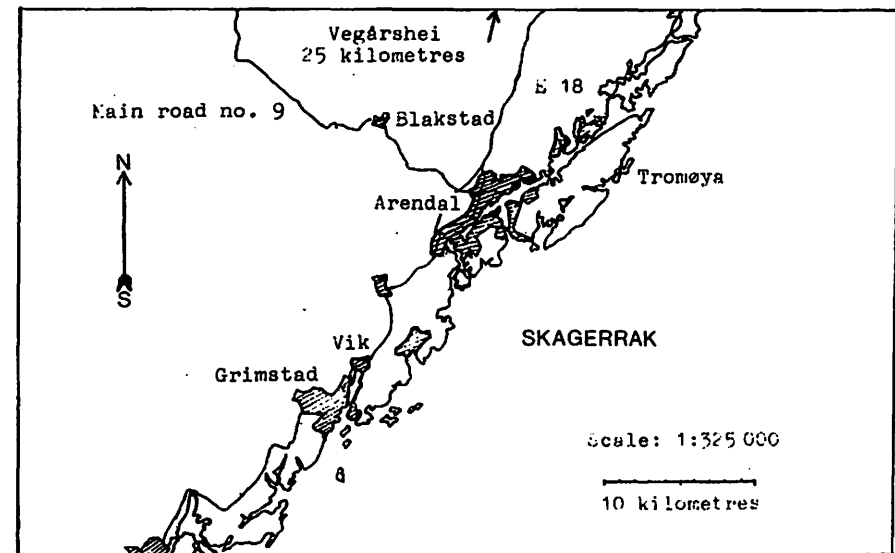
A10 to A13 show an aeroplane shot as a reference light source for comparison. Here one can readily see the red, green and yellow-white lamps flashing regularly, moving in a straight line during the 10 second exposures.

On B5, a really good one, there are four blinks. The first blink is green with some illuminated form in the middle. On the next blink - double blink - the UFO is totally shaded by the cylindrical cloud. (See drawing).

B16 will certainly become a classic. A yellow-red shivering light has travelled swiftly in all three dimensions and made a number of 90 degree turns. On each sharp change in its course there has been a big blast of light indicating that a considerable amount of energy was consumed during the 5-10 seconds exposure. Such odd behaviour was observed by many eyewitnesses during this November month. No plane, balloon or helicopter could move so fast in this manner. (See sketch).

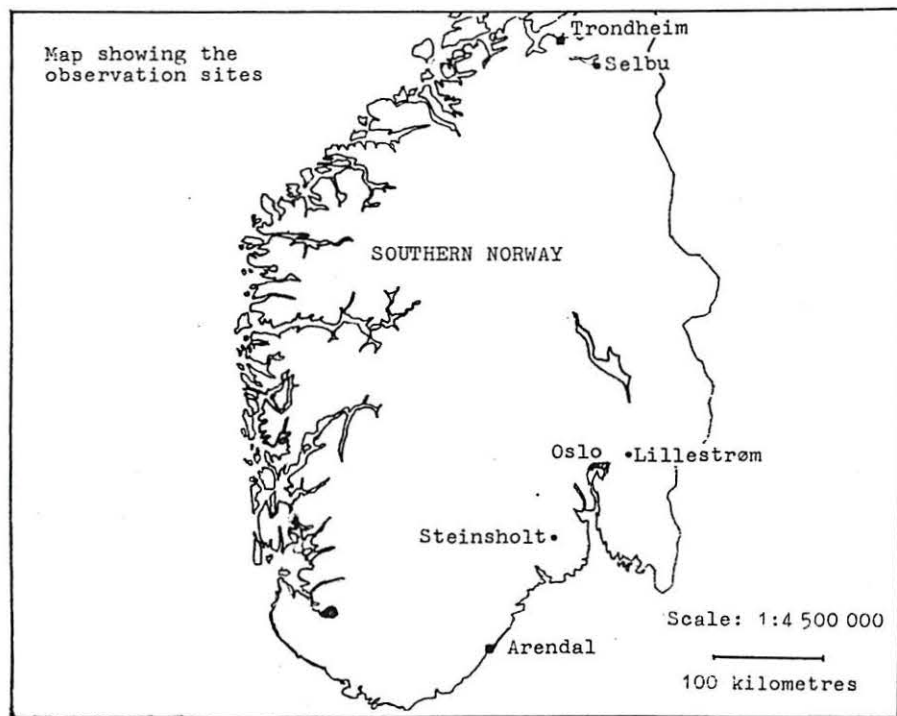


Some of the objects (or to be exact - light-forms) captured on these films show certain resemblances to similar pictures taken at Lillestrøm, east of Oslo, some years ago. Also pictures taken later in the now famous Hessedalen valley (report to be included in a future issue of this newsletter) show quite similar patterns.



Many speculations can be made regarding these pictures and the additional observations made by people around the Arendal district. Whether Arendal was "visited" by aliens in their spaceships or there is a more down-to-earth explanation (perhaps several) one can only guess. One thing is for certain, however: The UFO "wave" over Arendal is not yet explained in terms of natural and/or man-made causes. Until this happens, we must suppose that yet more circumstantial evidence has been added to the growing complexity of the UFO-enigma.

Translated from Norwegian by Mentz haarbo
with the help of Hilary Evans.



Unfortunately, we have no material from Sweden this time. In the next issue, however, we will bring the latest news also from this country.

*Nordic UFO
Newsletter #4.*

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